

The Semaphore

A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Issue 228

Winter 2020



GROWING UP IN NORTH BEACH

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES



PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

by Nancy Shanahan, Co-Chair
nancy.shanahan@thd.org

On March 17, 2018, a fire damaged the historic Verdi Building at 659 Union St./1656 Powell Street, leaving the four exterior brick walls. The developer, Jeff Jurow of Red Bridge Partners, is proposing to demolish the Verdi Building as well as the garage building behind it at 1636 Powell Street, in order to build a 75-foot-high building containing 98 residential units, 14 hotel units, and 15,000 square feet of retail space. The three-story addition perched on top of a “rebuilt” Verdi Building would include a restaurant and outdoor space. The project as proposed would require special legislation to create a “Special Use District” for the site. As you can see, the addition and new glass structures would be highly visible from Washington Square and cast shadows on the park.

Some comments from random passersby: “The baby building looks a bit awkward riding on the mama building.” “I am all for housing, but the design simply looks ridiculous.” “It looks like a hat floating on top of a replica of the current building.” “The glass bases on both components make each section look like it’s floating in space.”



© DAVID LIPKIN



© SOCKETSITE



© SOCKETSITE



WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jon Golinger, Committee Chair
jon.golinger@thd.org

In an egregious demonstration of the backwards priorities of a San Francisco Port Commission dominated by real estate developers, bankers, and business interests, less than two weeks before Christmas, the Port served a 30-day eviction notice on the non-profit Pier 24 Photography Museum, the only free art museum on the waterfront. For its entire ten-year history at Pier 24, the museum has been free and open to the public.

As a photography lover, I have visited Pier 24 several times over the years, both on my own and with friends. I have never experienced a more powerful place to see photography than in the quiet peace inside the renovated pier shed, in a setting that balances old with new. Since Pier 24 Photography limits the number of visitors to 30 at a time to encourage peaceful contemplation of the work, the only sounds to be heard are seagulls periodically squawking in the background. “There is really nothing else like Pier 24 in the United States,” said Jeff Rosenheim, curator in charge of the Department of Photographs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. “The exhibitions, the program, the belief in the medium and the opportunities it has provided to communicate the larger story of the arts in America is undeniable. What they have done is no less than a miracle, since it is entirely funded by an individual with a great heart.”



Historical Photo of Pier 24.
PHOTO COURTESY OF PIER 24 PHOTOGRAPHY

EVICT REAL ESTATE INTERESTS —NOT ART MUSEUMS—

In the Port’s eviction notice to the non-profit art museum on December 13, Port Director of Real Estate Michael Martin wrote that the Port had decided to evict the museum because of an impasse in lease-extension negotiations. The non-profit art museum was apparently willing to pay more, but the Port demanded “market-rate rent” equivalent to what private technology company offices or venture capital financial firms could pay. “At this point, Port staff does not see a way to bridge the gap between the two sides,” said Martin.

Before he came to the Port, Martin was best known as the City’s lead financial negotiator for the 2013 America’s Cup races that ultimately became a fiscal fiasco for both the Port and the City. While the Port in its press release about the Pier 24 museum eviction asserted that “All Port tenants pay fair market rent,” as part of the America’s Cup financial deal, Martin and the Port attempted to give \$111 million worth of rent-free leases, land, and development rights for numerous piers to billionaire Larry Ellison for office and real estate development before the whole deal fell apart.

The Port’s eviction of a waterfront art museum is just the latest sign, after years of failed development schemes, that the five Port Commissioners—all mayoral appointees—continue to prioritize putting private development and luxury office suites inside San Francisco’s public piers over promoting maritime, arts, cultural, and recreational uses that would be open and accessible to the broader public. In a scathing 2014 report by the Civil Grand Jury, entitled “The Port of San Francisco: Caught Between Public Trust and Private Dollars,” the Grand Jury recommended a set of reforms to overhaul the Port Commission, such as balancing appointments between the Mayor and Supervisors to ensure a more diverse set of experiences and views. Currently, four of the five Port Commissioners are real estate developers or financial managers. One of the Port Commissioners was appointed more than 20 years ago by former Mayor Willie Brown. The other Port Commissioners were all appointed by either former Mayor Ed Lee or unelected



Pier 24—Under the Bay Bridge.
PHOTO COURTESY OF PIER 24 PHOTOGRAPHY

Interim Mayor Mark Farrell.

Whether the Port actually follows through with evicting art from the waterfront in favor of luxury offices for tech companies, 2020 is an ideal time for those of us who value diversity and public uses on San Francisco’s unique waterfront to renew our fight for it. We should ask our new reform-oriented majority on the Board of Supervisors to place a Port Reform Charter Amendment before San Francisco voters on the November 2020 ballot to effectuate the reforms called for by the Civil Grand Jury along with a new Waterfront Arts & Recreation Policy to prioritize arts, cultural, recreation, and maritime uses in our piers over private luxury office suites. I believe it would pass handily.

Instead of the Port evicting non-profit arts museums from our waterfront, it’s time we evict a Port Commission dominated by real estate, development, and financial interests. San Francisco’s waterfront does not belong to them—it belongs to all of us.



Photo gallery at Pier 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF PIER 24 PHOTOGRAPHY



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Stan Hayes
President@thd.org

Walking over the Hill the other day, the sun shining brightly on all below, I was reminded: Here we are again. A New Year, bright and shining, just like that sun, brimming with the promise of an even better, stronger community. All of us, working together to make that happen. While we don't always agree on the details, we do all agree on the big picture – our love of this special place.

And, what a special year we've just finished. Founded in 1954, THD celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2019. Sixty-five years working to make Telegraph Hill, North Beach, and the Northeast Waterfront better. For everyone, everywhere.

We celebrated the occasion in October with an outstanding 65th Anniversary Party, all of us laid back on the Pioneer Park lawn at Coit Tower. With great food, fine music, a stunning original poster, original childhood art, a sampling of THD's accomplishments over the years, and the 2019 Outstanding Contribution to the Neighborhood Award to Jon Golinger, a happy crowd of THD'ers enjoyed the day, meeting both old and new friends, sharing in community building at its very best.

And, lots more community building. Here's just a sampling. We held our Annual Membership Meeting and Election in April at the South End Rowing Club; we sponsored a booth, and 18 THD members and board engaged enthusiastically with attendees at the North Beach Festival in June; we held a New Member Mixer at the Maritime Wine Bar in August; we enjoyed member tickets to the All San Francisco Concert at Davies Symphony Hall in September; we joined in a bocce ball tournament in Joe DiMaggio Park, also in September; we participated in North Beach historical walks; and we co-sponsored an election issues forum, among other things.

We celebrated with a successful, standing-room only Holiday Party in December, with excellent food, music, wine, and outstanding holiday cheer, despite a

bit of last-minute excitement. Originally scheduled for Lillie Coit's Popup location, unexpected construction delays displaced the party to Lillie Coit's "Backup-Popup" location, fortunately just a few blocks away. Not to worry, though. Everything was terrific and enjoyed by all, successfully rescued by a team of hard-working volunteer Holiday elves!

We met actively in committees throughout the year. By the way, all of these meetings are open to any interested THD members. (Just let us know if you'd like to be a part.) *Semaphore* Committee members once again produced excellent new issues of THD's quarterly publication, which for more than 60 years has told the stories of the Hill. (See our website thd.org to read e-copies of many of them.) The Social & Program Committee, working with Art & Culture Committee members, organized many of the community-building events enumerated in previous paragraphs.

The Planning & Zoning Committee met in a series of enthusiastic, well-attended meetings, weighing in on a lengthy list of important community issues, testifying before the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Board of Appeals, and achieving victories that included several successful appeals. The Transportation Committee met also in well-attended meetings covering a range of topics, including GoBike stations in North Beach, dockless bikes, and the Better Market Street Project. The Communications Committee continued its update of the thd.org website, with its handsome look and impressive increase in visitors and page visits, as well as further building THD's Facebook page and producing and distributing a continuing series of informative emails to THD members.

Parks & Trees Committee members worked many long hours on the Washington Square Park renovation project throughout the year, along with others in the neighborhood. THD's efforts notably included a successful appeal of the Department of Public Works' decision to remove all the

Ficus trees lining the park along Columbus Avenue.

A NEW YEAR...

The result of working with Lance Carnes, representing "Save North Beach Village," was a settlement agreement saving four of those seven trees, replacing the removed trees with new ones, adding two new trees along Columbus, a new tree in the park, and new trees in 30 vacant tree basins within three blocks of the park. Not everyone got everything they wanted, but a good compromise, one that will help ensure the regrowth of the neighborhood tree canopy. And, an excellent exercise in community interplay.

While we remember, both with sorrow and gratitude, two wonderful THD members, Gerry Crowley and Paul Webber, all in all, 2019 was a successful and memorable year. We look forward with hope to the coming year.

As always, remember: To join or to get information about THD, come to our website at thd.org, or send an email to hello@thd.org. ♦



**FOR ALL OF YOUR
HOME, GARDEN, AND
HARDWARE NEEDS!**

627 VALLEJO STREET @ COLUMBUS

415-432-2653

COLEHARDWARE.COM



**Fit
for the
Ages**

Joan E. Glick ACSM, ACE, NASM
Certified Personal Trainer & Fitness Coach
2054 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
415.860.1496
info@fitfortheages.com
fitfortheages.com Yoga Classes Too

COME CELEBRATE SABATO DI
FESTA, A NORTH BEACH
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER
FOR NORTH BEACH CITIZENS

Featuring
Paula West & Trio

Saturday, April 18, 2020
6:00 PM

Saints Peter & Paul Church
666 Filbert Street

northbeachcitizens.org
415-772-0918



Al's attire
**HAND MADE
SAN FRANCISCO**

Shoe Restoration

Select your designs, fabric, lining, buttons,
details... Ready for fitting in about 3 to 6 weeks

www.homepage.mac.com/alsattire
1300 Grant Avenue • 415.693.9900

alsattire@earthlink.net

THD HOLIDAY PARTY 2019



© DAVID LIPKIN



© DAVID LIPKIN



© DENNIS HEARNE



© DENNIS HEARNE



© DENNIS HEARNE



© DENNIS HEARNE



© DENNIS HEARNE



© DAVID LIPKIN



© DAVID LIPKIN



DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR REPORT

by Supervisor Aaron Peskin
aaron.peskin@sfgov.org

2019 came to a good close with the (early!) reopening of Washington Square Park. I'd like to thank the Rec & Park Department, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the array of community stakeholders—including THD—that helped craft the Washington Square Water Conservation project from the beginning and monitored its progress through completion. As I said at the reopening, Washington Square is the only one of the City's original circa 1850's parks that is still terra firma and not the roof of a parking garage (like Union and Portsmouth Squares). THD was instrumental in obtaining landmark status for Washington Square in 1999—the first San Francisco Park to garner this coveted status. Thank you to THD for its historic efforts to preserve and enhance Washington Square for generations to come. It was clear at the reopening how much this unique slice of heaven means to the community, and press coverage afterwards highlighted the true success of the project: completing a major capital improvement that actually preserved and enhanced the park's character and charm, rather than fundamentally altering it.

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

For the first time in almost 20 years, California is back to March presidential primaries, so we have another election next month. But before I opine on a few of the propositions, I wanted to thank everyone for the outcome of last November's election and your help in ensuring that the Uber/Lyft tax (Proposition D) squeaked across the finish line to victory. (Because it was a dedicated tax, Prop. D had a tough hill to climb with a two-thirds vote.) San Francisco is now the first city in the State to approve a per-ride surcharge on Uber and Lyft rides. It was a long two-year journey, but with the passage of Prop. D, we expect to bring in an additional \$32-\$35 million annually to hire more Muni drivers and parking control officers, as well as to install traffic signals, crosswalks, and bike lanes.

We also passed Proposition A, a record \$600-million affordable housing bond, a collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. Of particular interest are new dedicated categories to fund senior and teacher housing. In addition, the voters saw fit to pass Proposition E, the Affordable Homes for Families and Educators Now Initiative, which I co-authored with Supervisors Fewer, Haney, and Walton. It will streamline the approvals for affordable housing on public land, including SFUSD. Special thanks to the teachers' union and affordable housing developers for their partnership.

MARCH 2020 BALLOT

Undoubtedly in the weeks ahead we'll be getting bombarded by campaigns, from the top of the ticket seeking to restore some dignity to our country, all the way down to local ballot initiatives. There are two San Francisco initiatives that I particularly want to commend to you. (If you are interested in getting my email with a complete set of local recommendations, feel free to email me at aaron.peskin@earthlink.net. Please note that I cannot use City Hall email to communicate about matters that are pending on our local ballot.)

Yet another **Proposition D:** With an increasing number of ground floor commercial vacancies in our neighborhood commercial districts, Proposition D would tax property owners who keep these spaces vacant. If the measure passes with a minimum of two-thirds vote, landlords who fail to take reasonable steps to activate their storefronts will be charged an annual fee per vacant linear foot of a space that has been vacant for more than 182 days. The tax starts at \$250 per linear foot and escalates to \$1,000 per linear foot over three years. The tax, which I authored, was forwarded to the voters by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors and endorsed by Mayor Breed, State Senator Weiner, Assemblyman Chiu and countless individuals and organizations, including the North


Beach Business Association. If approved, the measure would become effective in 2021 and would apply to the city's 30 or so neighborhood commercial areas, including District 3's North Beach, Broadway and Polk Street commercial corridors, as well as West Portal, Castro and Haight-Ashbury districts.

Proposition E: San Francisco's housing crisis has been exacerbated with lucrative office development far outpacing the City's affordable housing construction. Prop. E, which needs 50% plus 1 vote to pass, seeks to ensure balanced development by tying future office development approvals to San Francisco's ability to meet State-mandated affordable housing goals. The Planning Commission approves a certain amount of office development every year, but those approvals are not contingent on whether there is enough housing to accommodate the increased workforce population. Prop. E would limit the amount of office space that could be approved by a percentage equal to the city's shortfall in approving affordable housing development. The amount of affordable housing that should be approved would be based on current State mandates. The Mayor originally introduced a countermeasure but pulled it when it became apparent that Prop. E (the Balanced Development Act) was garnering widespread community support. Prop. E is a compromise measure that takes a reasonable approach to addressing our housing crisis by prioritizing housing for people ahead of corporate cubicles.

Finally, when I look back on 2019, I am reminded that North Beach continues to be a special village that takes care of each other. It has been an honor to partner with our neighborhood stakeholders on several community wins. We were able to restore Tel-Hi Neighborhood Center's Beacon program at Francisco Middle School, double the Big Belly trash can program managed by the incredible workforce at North Beach Citizens, expedite the opening of Family Café on Columbus Avenue, permanently fund Next Village's senior services, and install pedestrian safety improvements at several school sites after walk-throughs with Central Station Officer Courtney. We were also able to expedite Caffè Sapore's Legacy Business approvals, which will help it recover after an unjust eviction from Caffè Sapore's 23-year operation on Lombard Street. We will finally be opening a District 3 Navigation Center this year at 888 Post Street, and, although it won't be in North Beach, I was reminded of the last meeting we had on the topic, at which 200 of you raised your hands to say that you supported creating shelter and services for our unhoused neighbors. Each of these victories, big and small, could not have happened without community urging and collaboration. Thank you. You make me proud to be your Supervisor.


See you in the neighborhood and have a great 2020,
Aaron



CITY LIGHTS 
BOOKSELLERS A LITERARY MEETING
& **PUBLISHERS** PLACE SINCE 1953
OPEN DAILY
10am–midnight
261 COLUMBUS AVE SAN FRANCISCO CA 94133 | 415 362 8193
www.citylights.com

**FRIENDS OF
WASHINGTON SQUARE**
Meet on the 2nd Tuesday every month, with work parties in the
Square every quarter. See website for times, dates, locations.
www.friendsofwashingtonsquare.com

**THE FINE ART OF
PICTURE FRAMING**



WWW.CADRE-SF.COM
(415) 296-0400
301 UNION ST. AT MONTGOMERY

**MENTION "THE SEMAPHORE"
AND GET 10% OFF ON
ALL CUSTOM FRAMING!**



FROM THE EDITOR

by Cap Caplan
cap.caplan@thd.org

In 1989, I was working at Consulting Psychologists Press (now the Myers-Briggs Company). I had been hired about ten months before to start a National Training Division, offering courses across the country. Those who have worked in start-ups know the long hours and rapid pace of putting structures and systems in place.

So, it was not surprising that I was still at work in the late afternoon, no one there but the CEO and me. I was in his office for a performance review. As I listened to his comments and responded to his questions, in the back of my mind I was thinking about the commute home and wondering how long it might take. The route went by Candlestick Park where the World Series game would be played. An hour? An hour and a half?

In actuality, it was three times that—because, as we talked, the building started shaking, the floor swaying. I would have fallen had I not grabbed onto my boss. I was trembling, terrified, not knowing what was happening. (Raised in the Midwest, I remembered tornado drills at school. Little use that was, as he didn't believe in large desks. We couldn't dive under his.) He said "earthquake," and I suddenly understood, though the terror remained.

Then, it was over. The walls stopped shaking, the floor solid under my feet. Outside, a cacophony of car

alarms screeching, horns honking.

Inside, it was silent. My boss said we should leave, since he was uncertain whether the building would hold-up if another quake struck. We walked outside and got into our cars, he, heading south down the peninsula, and I, north to San Francisco.

Starting out on my usual route, I proceeded cautiously, as there were no lights at intersections. The trickle of cars ahead filled up, eventually becoming one single-lane line, slowed to a crawl.

As the line inched its way, turning left or right as closures dictated, I was truly lost. I had no idea where we were or what to do except to follow the car ahead of me. It was getting pitch black. I kept following, hoping my gas would hold out, the tank having been half full when I left.

Occasionally, we passed people on either side, sometimes one person, sometimes a group. My anxiety grew, as I wondered what they were about. Would someone try to stop my car? I was unnerved. Scanning ahead as far as I could, I didn't see any action. Perhaps, people were looking for a ride or simply conversing about what had just taken place.

Finally, after what felt like hours, the area began to look familiar. Then I recognized the start of North Beach.

Hooray! I was going home.

The relief was short-lived. My mind turned to the thought I'd pushed aside. What would I find when I

got there? Would my house still be standing? What about the 15-foot windows at the front? Had anyone been hurt as they crashed onto the sidewalk and street? And what of my dog?

As I turned the last corner, a surprise. Everything, every building, every car seemed the same as before. It was only weeks later that I came to understand this. Telegraph Hill, unlike the Marina, where the landfill essentially turns to jelly in a quake, is basically just one large, massively heavy rock. The whole thing rises and falls gently as one, each building remaining securely on its foundation.

As I pulled up my driveway, my next-door neighbor, Herb Choy, whom I consulted on everything from changing the furnace filter to constructing a new floor, appeared at the car's window. He told me to turn off the motor but remain in the car. He was concerned there might be a gas leak and wanted to go inside to check it out. When I said I was worried for his safety, he replied simply, "I'm used to doing these things, and I don't want you to get hurt."

The happy ending was that nothing was damaged, not even a bottle of wine on a high shelf, which was consumed promptly in its entirety.

Once again, my wonderful neighbors had looked out for my welfare. Once again, I was so grateful for having found this block. (And, yes, I passed the review.)



TRANSPORTATION REPORT

by Howard Wong, Committee Chair
howard.wong@thd.org

A potential sign of innovative Muni transit is the Mayor's appointment of Jeffrey Tumlin, a transportation professional, as new Director of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). Over the past eight years, former director Ed Reiskin made great strides in increased funding, rapid transit lanes, and fleet replacement with new buses and light-rail vehicles. But struggles in service reliability, system breakdowns, and project cost overruns have undermined customer satisfaction. For long-term residents of North Beach and the northeast quadrant, transit decline is more palpable. Bus routes and service to major transportation hubs have diminished. Connecting Fisherman's Wharf to the Montgomery Station (to pick up BART or the Metro), the #15-Kearny bus was eliminated when the T-Line (Central Subway Phase 1) opened. Connecting the Marina to Embarcadero Station, the #41-Union bus had midday/ night/ weekend hours eliminated. Connecting the Waterfront to Downtown, cable cars had single-ride fares for residents eliminated (except for monthly Clipper Cards).

SIMPLER MUNI FIXES NEEDED

Rather than waiting 10-30 years for an expensive subway, riders simply need an integrated/reliable Muni system. As I expressed in a "Letter to the Editor" (*San Francisco Chronicle*, November 15, 2019, *Opinions Page 1*, titled "Start with simple steps to fix Muni"):



Scooter blocking sidewalk.

© HOWARD WONG

NEW SFMTA DIRECTOR

Cautious optimism for a transportation professional with farther-reaching vision. Still, Muni's lapses have not been for lack of expertise alone but due to the drain of political schemes trumping steady transit planning. Muni funding has been diverted to large infrastructure projects that benefit the few rather than to democratic projects that advance the citywide Muni system. With modest budgets in short time frames, cities around the world have created integrated transportation systems, bus rapid networks, and operative traffic/transit management. Started 45 years ago in Brazil, Curitiba, a well-designed bus rapid transit, moves two million riders per day, cutting 27 million car trips per year. In San Francisco, simple steps are doable, like restoring bus lines/ service cuts, reinstating regular fares on cable cars for residents, and building a culture of customer service, cordiality, courtesy, cleanliness and design quality.

OTHER MUNI NEWS

Because of the Jefferson Street Improvement Project, the E-Line and F-Line now turn back at Pier 39 until Fall 2020. A shuttle bus loops between Pier 39 and Taylor Street. Also, because of severe driver shortages, the F-Line has had long service gaps of 14-minutes between streetcars. I saw a digital sign reading "45-minutes." The F-Line will change to a more predictable nine-minute gap until Fall 2021, when the original seven-minute wait will be restored. The passage of Proposition D, which imposes a tax on ride-share companies (like Uber and Lyft), might lessen driver shortages---but bring in only \$30 million/year. Finally, if pilot programs are successful, the City is approving up to 10,000 new e-scooters, prompting concerns about street clutter and sidewalk safety.



Streetcar at Fisherman's Wharf.

© HOWARD WONG

“BUONE FESTE” CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS OUR SICILIAN FEAST AND THE PERENNIAL



Our Sicilian feast and the perennial bottle of 7UP (Annie, Sebastian, Charles, Rose and Jack). © CHARLES VERSAGGI

by Charles Versaggi ©2019

I grew up in North Beach from 1946 through the late '50s. I was the oldest of three sons born to an immigrant family from Sicily, a few years before Carol Doda's breasts became institutionalized at the Condor Club, titillating tourists with silicone implants and watered down drinks, catty-corner from *City Lights Booksellers & Publishers*, still generating the restless rhythm of the Beats.

Every time I cross the Golden Gate Bridge to anywhere in San Francisco, like a salmon going back to its spawning ground, I can't help but drive down Columbus Avenue through my beloved *Italianita* (Little Italy), recalling childhood memories — especially Christmas dinner with my family crowded around a table full of “delizioso” food.

Back then, North Beach was the vibrant center of Italian San Francisco, with some 30,000 *paesani* (fellow countrymen who emigrated from the same province or village in the Old Country) who owned, even cherished, each other's family. Folks would greet my mother and me on the street with *come sta nostro figlio?* — “How is our son?” (always a possessive pronoun) and a firm squeeze of the cheek that told me I belonged here.



Nonno Sebastiano Romeo at his market.

© CHARLES VERSAGGI

Although the neighborhood was a mosaic of people from different regions of Italy — Genoa, Naples, Calabria, Tuscany and Sicily — it seemed to me that everybody knew one another despite their different Italian dialects. At home, we spoke Sicilian, a distinctively different language heard among the fishing and crab boats of Fisherman's Wharf, where most of my maternal grandparents and uncles first earned a living before it became a tacky tourist destination. My father worked at a pasta factory on Drumm Street that became Royal Pasta Company, and my mom was a seamstress who kept the household together with unconditional



Dominic Di Mari, who lived next to us on Lombard St., and Dominic Tringali, among our family and friends who emigrated from Augusta, Sicily.

© ART FRISCH_SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE_POLARIS

love, great food, and stylish handmade clothes.

As a toddler, I lived with my mother and her parents, Sebastiano and Giuseppina Romeo, on Varennes Street, an alley off Union Street on Telegraph Hill. After World War II, my father joined my mother and me, and we moved to Lombard Street, between Stockton and Powell Streets. My two brothers were born eight and ten years after me. My aunts, uncles, and a gazillion cousins all lived within walking distance of each other.

I went to Saints Peter & Paul School (“Salesian School”), played basketball at the Salesian Boys' Club (no girls till 1994), and was an altar boy at Saints Peter and Paul Church, the center for physical and spiritual wellbeing of the community. I played Cowboys and Indians under the cavernous bushes of Coit Tower and loved wandering through Chinatown, soaking up the sights and smells of a foreign country next door.

Washington Square Park, *il Giardino* (“the Garden”) was where we'd see musty old men wearing “faded felt hats,” sitting on park benches, smoking stubby Italian Toscanelli cigars that filled the air with an acrid combination of burned fermented tobacco, garlic, and a lifetime of fishing. Across the park on Stockton, the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club was where we celebrated life's events — but no athletic events that I can remember.

Christmas was a magical time for celebrating family and for unrestrained feasting on great Italian — make that Sicilian — food. Rather than turkey or ham, dinner courses would center on seafood — shrimp, clams, raw or fried oysters, marinated octopus, stuffed squid, and most importantly, Dungeness crab — all from my grandfather Sebastiano's Romeo Produce & Fish Market, located on Third Street across town in San Francisco's Bayview district. He and his two sons, Giacomo (Uncle Jack) and Giuseppe (Uncle Joe), ran the original market through the late '50s, and my Uncle Joe and his two sons, Frank and John, operated Romeo's Fish Market through the late '70s.

Preparation for Christmas Dinner would begin with shopping at Buon Gusto's Market, then located at the corner of Columbus and Green Street, next door to the now-vacant Buon Gusto's Sausage Factory, once the largest sausage and salami producer in the West. You can still get your side dish of spicy Sicilian sausage at Little City Market, on the corner of Stockton and Vallejo Streets, where the Spinali family still makes them —authentically — with anise seed. We shopped for imported Italian salumi, cheeses, and other specialties at Molinari Delicatessen on Columbus near Vallejo,

AS IN 1950s NORTH BEACH NIAL BOTTLE OF 7UP®

which is still thriving after more than 120 years.

We bought *panettone* (Italian Christmas bread) and sour dough bread at the now-shuttered Italian French Baking Company and focaccia bread at Liguria Bakery on Stockton and Filbert Street, still baked by the Soracco family in the same way for more than a hundred years.

Although biscotti would be baked by my mother, Sacripantina Cake and Sicilian Cannoli would come from Stella's Pastry & Café on Columbus, and Italian Rum Cake from Victoria Pastry (now at Filbert and Powell), established in 1911.

If a minus tide coincided with the holiday, a few family members would make a run down the coast to Moss Beach, north of Half Moon Bay, and collect spiny purple sea urchins (*rizzi*) for their rich and flavorful roe ("uni" for Japanese gourmands) to accompany our meal. At a young age, I acquired a taste for this delicacy — one of the hallmarks of Sicilian cuisine — savored raw for its briny, sweet taste or mixed with linguine to create a luscious sauce.

Food preparation and cooking was a family affair. Men, women, and children would set the table with the finest laced linens, crystal china, and silverware. First came the appetizer plate with salami, prosciutto di Parma, mortadella di Bologna, and various cheeses, surrounded by pepperoncini and homemade dry-cured black and marinated green olives.

Vegetable dishes would include stuffed artichokes, steamed Swiss chard or Italian string beans (prepared with crushed garlic, olive oil and lemon juice), a tossed green salad with fennel, a basket of focaccia and sour dough bread, and the crowning dish — Sicilian Cracked Crab.

Dinner started around 7 p.m. and continued for three to four hours with a cacophony of conversation, cursing, and gesticulations, which sounded like everyone was arguing with each other. If you were a child trying to get your parent's attention, the chances of you being heard were slim to none. But you knew by the off-colored jokes and boisterous laughter that everyone was having a raucous time.

When dessert finally came — my favorite was Italian rum cake — after-dinner Italian liqueurs such as Strega, Galliano, or Anisette were served for the adults. Near midnight, the younger children would be put to bed; their Christmas morning would soon come in a few hours. The dinner table was cleared, the ash trays were cleaned, and the more serious event of the evening would take place — the card game.

Although some of the family were inclined to attend Midnight Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Church, card playing was a more pressing part of the holiday tradition. Sometimes, a religious compromise would be reached: having the Pope's Midnight Mass on television in the middle of a poker game.

My grandmother was notorious for cheating at



Harvesting sea urchins ("rizzi") — Sebastiano Romeo (center standing) and friends. © CHARLES VERSAGGI

cards. When she thought no one was looking, she would nonchalantly stash an ace or king under her sweater below the table. Although the other players would sometimes make an allowance, perhaps as a gesture of respect, they would inevitably object when the winner's pot got serious. We realized that rather than a cheater, she was just frustrated and meant well — she would always be there to share her loot with her grandkids.

I'm now in my 70s, with yet another Christmas before me. Left with distant memories of my North Beach family, one image stands out warm and personal: the green bottle of 7UP, which stood constant amid the sumptuous repasts and reminds me of the rich heritage my family brought to my life, as well as the importance of culture and community, which make us human.

Although I can't go back to that time and place, I realize how blessed I am to have experienced their hope, love, and support.

Buone Feste!



Charles Versaggi is a native San Franciscan of Italian-Sicilian heritage. His current project is "North Beach Light," a collection of photo essays that reflect on his early years of living in North Beach when it was the city's "Italianita" and the center of Beat lifestyle, topless bars, and jazz clubs, leading to flower power and the Summer of Love. Contact: charlesversaggi@me.com



Sebastiano Romeo family and friends — and the perennial bottle of 7UP.

© CHARLES VERSAGGI

Coit Liquor & Wine

since 1961
a NAJWA INC. company

1657 Powell Street
sf CA 94133

415 362-4444
sfcoitliquor.com



TONY'S PIZZA NAPOLETANA

Tony's Pizza Napoletana
1570 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA 94133
Little Italy

(415) 835-9888
(415) 835-9898 fax
(415) 246-6293 cell
tonyspizzanapoletana.com

DON PISTOS

DECK THE HALLS
with margaritas and tacos

HOST A PRIVATE PARTY AT DON PISTOS
OR
HAVE US CATER YOUR NEXT EVENT

CALL TO LEARN MORE
415.395.0939

510 UNION STREET, SF // 2030 LOMBARD STREET, SF
DONPISTOS.COM

MARITIME
WINE TASTING STUDIO

Since 2008 we've been importing wines from around the world and making wine in our home state of California. We're your neighborhood tasting room and bottle shop with over 250 wines from which to choose.

222 COLUMBUS AVENUE AT KEARNY
MARITIMETASTING.COM

MARITIMEWINECO MARITIME_TASTING_STUDIO

THE ITALIAN HOMEMADE Company

North Beach
716 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94133
+1 (415) 712 8874

Berkeley
2905 College Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
+1 (510) 649 1495

Los Angeles
online orders

Marina
1919 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
+1 (415) 655 9325

Hayes Valley
1 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
+1 (415) 757 0877

Long Beach
coming soon!

italianhomemade.com

NORTH BEACH GETS ITS LIVING ROOM BACK IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

(Reprinted in part with permission from Hoodline (hoodline.com))
by Romalyn Schmaltz

As if by civic design, the rainclouds that have dogged the City for most of the past week parted over North Beach's Washington Square Park Wednesday afternoon just in time to christen its new incarnation. The park had been closed since June and was expected to re-open at the end of December.

Instead, San Francisco Rec and Park gave North Beach, Chinatown, and Telegraph Hill neighbors an early holiday surprise, with well over a hundred onlookers cheering on the ribbon-cutting ceremony outside. According to one attendee, "This was the best gift we could've been given by the City. The park just glistens during the holidays and attracts shoppers to our local businesses from all over the Bay Area. It seemed wrong to have a holiday season with our very centerpiece—the place North Beach is most known for—fenced in." These sentiments were echoed by members of various neighborhood associations, including the North Beach Business Association, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Friends of Washington Square Park, the Chinatown Community Development Center, and North Beach Neighbors.

Anchoring the many speeches prior to the cutting of the ribbon was District Three Supervisor Aaron Peskin. "Fifty-five years ago, this park was slated to become, like Union Square and Portsmouth Square, the roof of a parking garage." Peskin went on to say that the fate of the park was left to the Board of Supervisors, who voted 6-to-5 to build the underground garage and forever alter the character of the park. "I will not out who was on the six side and who was on the five side," he joked, "but the mayor at that time, Jack Shelley, vetoed that legislation."

In 1999, Washington Square Park became City Landmark #226, ensuring its protection in perpetuity.

Peskin also thanked Rec & Park for the \$3 million project's timely completion. "So, I want to thank Jack Shelley for saving this park, but I really want to thank Rec and Park. (General Manager) Phil Ginsberg keeps telling me that he's done much more complicated, much more expensive projects with much less hassle. Everybody came to this with open minds, open hearts, and a lot of fuss. [The project managers] promised that it would be done within six months and would be on-budget, and their promise wasn't true—they came in early and on-budget!"

According to Paula Kehoe, Director of Water Resources with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the new irrigation and drainage systems will save two million gallons of drinking water each year.

Landscape architecture manager Jennifer Cooper noted, "As you can imagine, even making small changes to such a beloved and historic park is a daunting task. So, the design team really took that seriously, and they just took the bones of the park and the heart of the park, reframed and refined it, and they made it more durable for the next generations."

Assemblyman David Chiu lamented that San Francisco has the "least amount of open space on the



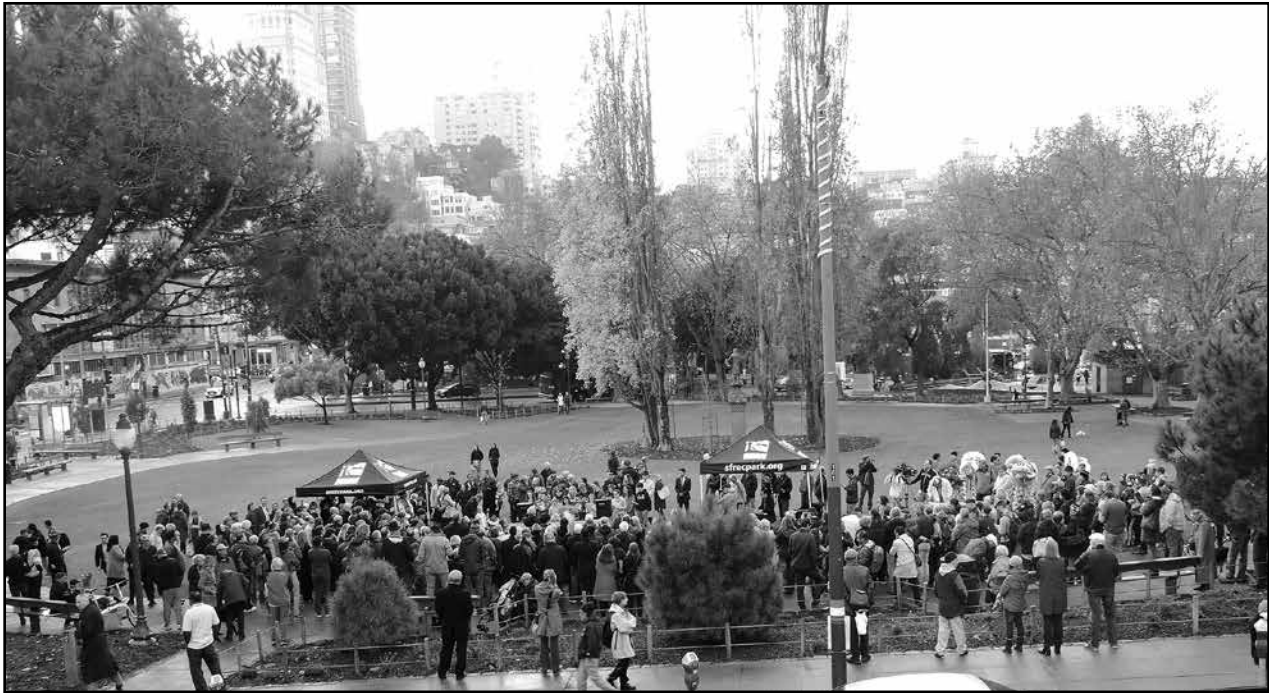
A new view of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

© ROMALYN SCHMALTZ



A good turnout from THD.

© ROMALYN SCHMALTZ



View from the Italian Athletic Club.

© DAVID LIPKIN



THD President Stan Hayes with David Becker. © DAVID LIPKIN

west coast, yet the densest neighborhoods outside of Manhattan—this is the most important thing we can do to be investing in who we are as a city." Chiu went on to reference the myriad meanings the park has to its visitors, from romantic first dates to informal weddings and receptions to the early-risers in Chinatown who for decades have graced the park with their exercise practices just after dawn.

A traditional Chinatown lion dance and choral performances from the Salesian Boys and Girls Club rounded out the outdoor portion of the event.

Following the joyous and umbrellas-optional ceremony, revelers poured into the Italian Athletic Club across Stockton Street for a community dinner, and while North Beach is sometimes notorious for its small-town-style bickering and micro-politics, getting



Chinatown Music Group.

© DAVID LIPKIN

its "living room" back sooner than expected—and with minimal changes and no extra expenses—proved to be real fence-mender, just in time for the holidays and a new year. The cheer was palpable.



PARKS & TREES REPORT

by Don Raichle, Committee Chair
don.raichle@thd.org

As a result of *Hoodline* kindly sharing THD Board Member Romalyn Schmaltz's excellent article on the unveiling of our refurbished Washington Square Park, my comments for this issue can be brief.

First off, thanks are due to Supervisor Peskin, Rec and Parks, and all of the neighborhood stakeholders who supported the project and provided constant oversight during the project's design and construction. Much of the initial heavy lifting to initiate the project came from the Friends of Washington Square, but THD stayed closely involved along with North Beach Neighbors and the North Beach Business Association, insisting on an expedited schedule, quality control guarantees, and regular neighborhood working group meetings to monitor progress.

While there were disagreements along the way regarding priorities and some aesthetic considerations, the end result is a much-improved park that will support a healthier landscape long into the future. Some of the changes you can see—new paving, new trees, new lawn—but significant investment was made below ground as well. The new irrigation system, subsurface drainage, and import of better draining soils will likely be forgotten additions, since they are out of sight, but they are critical to the park's future viability.

WASHINGTON SQUARE— A SUCCESS STORY

An initial test of the new drainage system occurred immediately after the park's opening. Unusually heavy rains over the following two days saturated a number of areas within the park, putting a significant demand on the new system and damaging some of the new sod lawn that hadn't fully taken root. As of this writing (late December), some areas are cordoned off and being inspected to determine if any additional mitigation measures are needed. With any luck, by the time you're reading this, the lawn will be fully established and the improvements meeting the expectations promised.

A noticeable change in the "new park" is the addition of low wooden and rope barriers installed around many of the planting areas. Historically, shrub plantings haven't done well because of visitors walking through these planting areas, damaging the plants and compacting the soil. Barriers have been put in to give these ornamental shrubs and ground covers a fighting chance at getting established. It is anticipated that they will be removed in two years. One thing still to look forward to is the return, in some form, of the large Cypress that was taken down (as noted in my column in the last issue of *The Semaphore*). As a connection to the park's past, several large sections of the tree's trunk were preserved, and after at least two years of curing, these sections will be repurposed as benches or art works (or both) and brought back into the park.

Because of this project and a recent win on get-

ting Public Works finally to replace the missing trees up and down Columbus Avenue—See update below from Judy Irving—2019 ended on a high note. These successes highlight that by being vigilant and insisting on agencies following through on promises, together we can help achieve a great result and a significant improvement to our much-loved neighborhood.

Update from Judy Irving: Successful Settlement on Columbus Ficus Trees

We are happy to report that THD reached a successful settlement with the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Urban Forestry, providing for "phased removals" of the Ficus trees lining Columbus along Washington Square Park, and extensive new tree planting in the neighborhood.

As provided by the settlement, three Ficus trees will be removed in the first phase and a total of 38 trees will be planted: seven along the 600 block of Columbus, one additional tree in Washington Square, and at least 30 trees in currently empty tree basins within three blocks of the park. All concerned neighborhood groups, including THD, North Beach Neighbors, Save North Beach Village, Friends of Washington Square, and the North Beach Business Association, agreed that Southern magnolia trees, which are a beautiful, climate-resilient, evergreen species, will replace the Ficus removed along Columbus. ✂



ART & CULTURE REPORT

by Romalyn Schmaltz
romalyn.schmaltz@thd.org

Welcome to a new year of art and culture in North Beach! Fresh horizons are being explored, and you're invited to join in the excitement that always comes with innovation. With a little luck, I'll be partnering with Daniel Macchiarini of Macchiarini Creative Design on Grant Avenue to inspire, invigorate, and expand North Beach First Fridays—our monthly art walk—by increasing pro-

JOIN THE NEW FIRST FRIDAYS ART WALK TEAM

motion and getting visual artists, musicians, poets, writers, dancers, and performance artists into retail spaces, cafés, restaurants, and even our vacant storefronts along Grant and beyond, for what we hope will be a more interdisciplinary and immersive experience for patrons and participants alike. We also have plans to redesign our First Fridays website (seeking a web designer who'd like to share expertise).

Do you know artists or performers looking for new, creative arenas for showcasing their work? Are you a North Beach business that would like to participate

in First Fridays, generating more traffic and revenue? I'm here to listen and help patch you through to the right people to help make North Beach a vanguard of art in San Francisco. We seek painters, singers, musicians, poets, craftspeople, storytellers, filmmakers, designers, creative historians, lecturers, dancers, sculptors—just about anything under the ample umbrella of "art and culture." Please contact me with ideas, leads, or inquiries as to how we can include your business in the new North Beach First Fridays. And I'll see you on the street! ✂

GLOW

yoga | barre | health education | wellness spa

North Beach - 1548 Stockton St

Your Time to Feel Better is Now

\$49 First 10 Days of Classes

www.glowyogasf.com

YOUR NORTH BEACH PURVEYORS SINCE 2011
CHEESEMONGER . WINE MERCHANT . GROCERY
1541 GRANT AVENUE . BETWEEN UNION + FILBERT

LITTLE VINE.NB

PARK TAVERN

INFO@PARKTAVERNSF.COM
PH: 415.989.7300 F: 415.989.7301
1652 STOCKTON STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133
WWW.PARKTAVERNSF.COM

LOVE
LIFE
FOOD
WINE
PASSION
PEOPLE

ACQUOLINA

SAN FRANCISCO

1600 STOCKTON ST.
WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN FRANCISCO, 94133
(415) 781-0331
WWW.ACQUOLINA.US

la mediterranee
CATERING

pickup | delivery | full service

1624 Powell St | San Francisco CA 94133 | (415) 921-2956 ext.2
Information@cafelamedsf.com
www.cafelamedsf.com

Columbus Cyclery

SALES - REPAIRS - TUNE UPS
www.ColumbusCyclery.com

2011 Mason St. @ Columbus 415-561-9999 MAP ➔

Go Bike It

BIKE RENTALS
to Bridge (Return by Ferry), Park & more
www.GoBikeIt.com

Elizabeth Ashcroft

eastudio@comcast.net
artbyashcroft.com
415.263.8959

Elizabeth Ashcroft Fine Arts on FB
elizabethashcroft6003 on Instagram

& Grey City Gallery Proprietor
250 Columbus #202 SF CA 94133

MOVE WITH EASE

1441 Grant Ave
415.398.4425
www.bluesparrowpilates.com

BLUE SPARROW PILATES

Phone: 415-398-3181
www.sottomaresf.com
sotto.mare@outlook.com

SOTTO MARE

OYSTERIA & SEAFOOD

"The Best Damn Cioppino!"

Seafood • Pasta • Fish Market • Banquet Room for up to 30 Guests

In San Francisco's "Little Italy"
552 Green Street (between Columbus & Grant)
North Beach, San Francisco, CA 94133



SOCIAL & PROGRAM REPORT

by Patrice Ignacio Moll and Rachel Rodriguez, Co-Chairs
patrice.ignaciomoll@thd.org and rachel.rodriguez@thd.org

As last year marked THD's 65th anniversary, 2019 was quite an exciting year to join the THD board and begin our term co-chairing the Social & Programs Committee. New board members, we were given S&P's astonishing task of facilitating a very important celebration—appropriately honoring the organization's 65 years of strong work and dedication to protecting, preserving, and serving our community. We knew immediately that we couldn't pull this off alone. From the start, our goal has been to include our larger community in the planning and execution of our neighborhood events, in addition to the celebrations and activities.

We began our term as co-chairs by inviting members, neighbors, friends, and partners to take a role in designing and informing our Committee's work for the busy year ahead. To be honest, in addition to our excitement, as co-chairs, we shared a fair amount of panicked glances and late-night anxiety, diffused in part by texts reassuring ourselves and each other that "we got this." In the end, the 65th Anniversary Picnic on October 6, 2019 was a wild success and a beautiful celebration together on top of Telegraph Hill, in large part because of our committee members' involvement and efforts. The 65th Anniversary Picnic included donations from 15 local merchants, relied upon our 20 or so committee volunteers, and offered live music from a local band, a raffle full of valuable prizes, interactive art, and awards to more than 90 attendees!

Other Social & Programs events this past year have included the new member mixer at Maritime Wine Tasting Studio, an evening at the SF Symphony, a neighborhood walking tour, and our annual holiday party, as well as THD co-sponsored events with other organizations: a panel with the candidates for District Attorney and a panel presentation on addressing our homelessness crisis. We are looking forward to many more engaging, fun, and enriching events in 2020.

Please join us and share your ideas, interests, and talents with this community. One of our goals for the Social & Programs Committee is to build and diversify our membership and events, reflective of your ideas and areas of interest for fun, entertainment, community building, activism, volunteerism, health and wellness, and extended learning opportunities. Please email us at social@thd.org to find out more about upcoming events, to share your ideas, or to join us and get involved. Thank you so much for all of your support and participation this past year.



JOIN THE
TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS!
Go to thd.org and become
part of this active community!



DENNIS HEARNE
photographer

www.dennishearne.com

tel 415 989 5152

email dennishearne@mac.com
779 Vallejo Street
San Francisco, California 94133

PORTRAITURE, ARCHITECTURE, AND DOCUMENTATIONS

Breakfast
& Lunch
7:30 to 2:30—
this is 7 days a
week.

**PAT'S
CAFÉ**

Support
Small
Business

**2330 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
415-776-8735**

AWESOME BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES

Z. Cioccolato
— ★ FUDGE ★ —
WWW.ZCIOCCOLATO.COM
info@zcioccolato.com • 415.395.9116
474 Columbus Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94133
The Sweetest Spot In North Beach!

 **SAN FRANCISCO
PERFORMANCES**

500 Sutter Street
Suite 710
San Francisco, CA 94102

415.398.6449 T
415.398.6439 F

sfperformances.org

**PIAZZA
PELLEGRINI**

RISTORANTE ITALIANO

659 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94133
Tel: 1 415.397.7355
Fax: 1 415.397.7357

www.piazzapellegrini.com

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019

by Mary Lipian, Recording Secretary
mary.lipian@thd.org

October 2019

On the agenda were THD's 65th Anniversary Picnic (see President's Report in this issue); the Washington Square Park Closure (see Parks & Trees Report); P&Z's successful support of the Planning Commission's denial of a permit for a project at 120-124 Varennes Street; and the pros and cons of multi-space parking meter boxes like those currently in use on Green between Grant and Columbus.

November 2019

The Board discussed plans for the Holiday Party on December 8, 2019; THD's Appeal of DPW's Decision to Remove Ficus Trees along Columbus Avenue (see Parks & Trees update); and the upcoming Planning & Zoning Committee meeting on 11/19, at which three development proposals will be discussed: 659 Union/1656 Powell (Verdi building, damaged by fire), 1268 Grant (former home of Basta Pasta and La Pantera), and 123 Columbus (Sonoma's Eco Terreno Wines in the former Purple Onion building).

December 2019

No Board Meeting was held in December.




*"I have been enjoying
countless passages in Peter
Dwares informative, funny,
page turner "Be the
Architect of Your Own Life".*

*"A philosophy for people
who want to excel in
business or just live better.
"Filled with wisdom
and fun."*

*"Be the Architect of Your
Own Life is one of the best
self help books I've read."*

*"Peter Dwares is a
Renaissance Man of the first
order. Successful real estate
developer, author, Founder
of Pathways for Kids,
especially interested in
international issues,
thoughtful, engaged."*

Available on Amazon
and Kindle.



BE THE
ARCHITECT
OF YOUR
OWN LIFE

A FUN, SIMPLE BUNCH OF VERY INTERESTING THOUGHTS
AND CONCLUSIONS THAT ARE GUARANTEED TO BE OF USE
TO YOU. READ AND DIGEST ONE OR TWO A DAY.

PETER L. DWARES

MetalworksSF
School of handcrafted jewelry and metal art

Macchiarini Creative Design
1544 Grant Ave.
San Francisco, CA



www.metalworkssf.com

ESPRESSO CAPPUCCINO VINO PANINI

CAFFÈ GRECO


423 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
415-397-6261

Hanna & Sandy Suleman



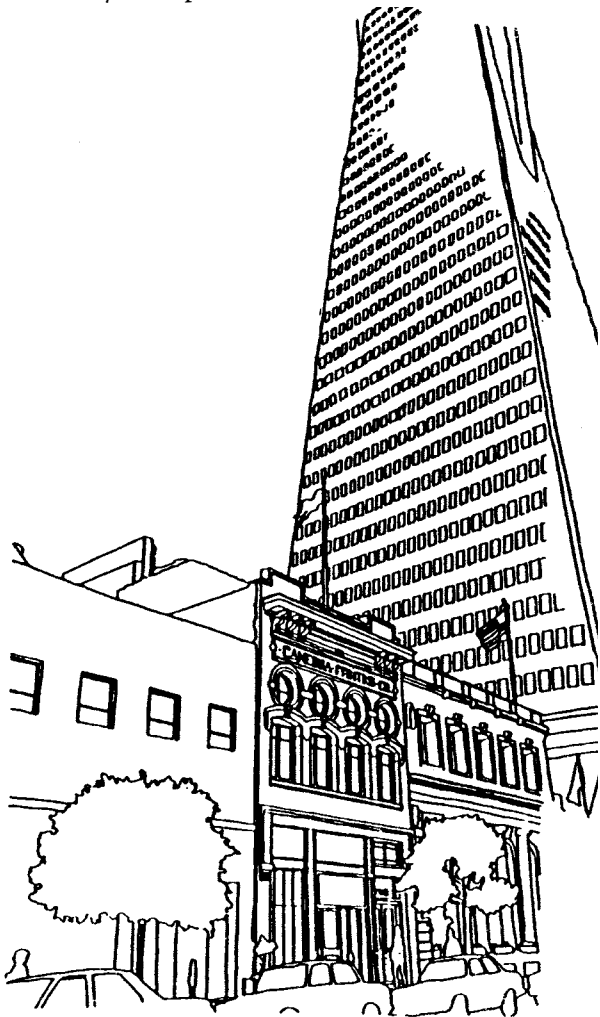
TREASURER'S REPORT

by Nick Ferris
nick.ferris@thd.org

As I write, we are nearly three quarters through our fiscal year, which starts in April. The Board will vote on the 2020-2021 budget in March of 2020.

THD operates on a break-even budget with the assumption that all dues and contributions will remain constant and cover all expenses incurred through THD's work. The largest expense THD has is the publication of this neighborhood newspaper, *The Semaphore*.

As of our last board meeting, THD had a net income of \$9,168.33 with a few large expenses remaining but overall in very strong financial health. THD has no staff. All the officers and directors are volunteers, reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of THD. ✂



ADVERTISEMENT

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

Get involved in our neighborhood and make a difference! Join a THD committee and help keep the Hill a special place to live.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Art & Culture: Romalyn Schmaltz romalyn.schmaltz@thd.org

Budget: Nick Ferris nick.ferris@thd.org

Membership: Andy Katz THDmembership@gmail.com

Oral History Project: Judy Irving judy.irving@thd.org

Transportation: Howard Wong, howard.wong@thd.org

Parks & Trees: Don Raichle don.raichle@thd.org

Planning & Zoning: Mary Lipian and Nancy Shanahan
mary.lipian@thd.org and nancy.shanahan@thd.org

Semaphore: Cap Caplan (Editor) cap.caplan@thd.org

David Lipkin (Photo Editor) david.lipkin@thd.org

Social & Program: Rachel Rodriguez and Patrice Ignacio Moll
rachel.rodriguez@thd.org and patrice.ignacio.moll@thd.org

Waterfront: Jon Golinger jon.golinger@thd.org

Communications: Al Fontes, Katie Hopkins, Leah Lovelace, Sarah Kliban
al.fontes@thd.org

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE MEETS last Thursdays
of each month. Call for time and location.
986-7070, 563-3494, or 391-5652.


LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Central Police District Community Advisory Board: Daryl Babbitt


Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: open position

Friends of Washington Square Liaison: Don Raichle

Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger



1042 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 398-9696
www.tommasos.com



Home of the first wood-fired pizza oven on the West Coast.
Since 1935.



TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Voice Mail: (415) 843-1011. Web Site: www.thd.org
P.O. Box 330159 • San Francisco, CA 94133

THD BOARD OFFICERS 2019-2020

President: Stan Hayes — stan.hayes@thd.org

Vice-President: Nancy Shanahan — nancy.shanahan@thd.org

Recording Secretary: Mary Lipian — mary.lipian@thd.org

Corresponding Secretary: Katie Hopkins — katie.hopkins@thd.org

Treasurer: Nick Ferris — nick.ferris@thd.org

Financial Secretary: Andy Katz — andy.katz@thd.org

Historian: Al Fontes — al.fontes@thd.org

Immediate Past President: Judy Irving — judy.irving@thd.org

Editor of *The Semaphore*: Cap Caplan — cap.caplan@thd.org

DIRECTORS

Term: 2019-2021

Romalyn Schmaltz

Patrice Ignacio Moll

Rachel Rodriguez

Sarah Kliban

Term: 2018-2020

Leah Lovelace

Don Raichle

Julia Martin Murphy

Open Position



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!

There's no better way to be connected to your neighborhood and be a voice of the hill than by joining Telegraph Hill Dwellers, today.

Join at *THD.org*. If you'd prefer to have a brochure and sign-up form mailed to you, please send an email to membership@thd.org. Already a member? Give one as a gift!

Membership includes:

- A one-year subscription to news & events via email and a quarterly paper, *The Semaphore*.
- Opportunities to be active in your community. Your passion likely aligns to one of many committees.
- Social and Art & Culture events throughout the year – attend and contribute!

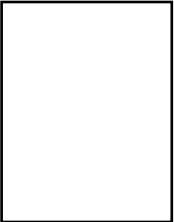
Annual Dues:

Individuals.....	\$35
Households.....	\$50
Seniors (65 and older).....	\$25
Senior Households.....	\$40

Join now or give the gift of membership at *THD.org* or email membership@thd.org.



TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS
P.O. Box 330159
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133



THE SEMAPHORE

FEATURES and COLUMNS

Development Pressures:	
Planning & Zoning Report by Nancy Shandhan	1
Waterfront Report by Jon Gollinger	1
President's Corner: A New Year . . . by Stan Hayes	2
THD 2019 Holiday Party Photos	3
District 3 Supervisor's Report: The Year in Review by Aaron Peskin	4
From the Editor: Interrupted by an Earthquake by Cap Caplan	5
Transportation Report: New SFMTA Director by Howard Wong	5
<hr/>	
THD BUSINESS	
Treasurer's Report by Nick Ferris	11
Board of Directors and Committees	11
<hr/>	
SEMAPHORE STAFF	
EDITOR: CAP CARLAN — semaphore@thd.org	
TYPESETTING/DESIGN: CHRIS CARLSSON — carlsson.chris@gmail.com	
AD SALES: ANDY KATZ — andykatz@thd.org	
BUSINESS MANAGER: AL FONTES — al.fontes@thd.org	

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individually copyrighted articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. No part of this membership publication may be reprinted or disseminated without permission in writing. © 2019. Cover: Charles Versaggi, circa 1955, at Washington Square Park. © Charles Versaggi



The Semaphore
A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS
Issue 228
Winter 2020

GROWING UP IN NORTH BEACH